P.O. Box 5409
Atlanta, GA 30307
March 8, 1993

Dr. Leroi Keith
Office of the President
Morehouse College
830 Westview Drive
Atlanta, GA 30314

Dear Dr. Keith:

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As a guest speaker on the Morehouse campus, I was appalled by the homophobic attitudes and behaviors of the students. I would like a formal letter of apology for the way I was treated, and I would like to see the Morehouse administration make serious efforts to address to the homophobia on campus.

Sincerely,

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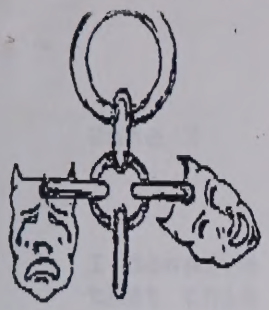
cc: Raymon Crawford, Dean of Students, Morehouse College
Coalition of African Descent



SilverFingers Productions

March 8, 1993

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It was during this time that I was threatened and verbally assaulted. The following is a list of some of the statements made to me by members of your student body and their guests:

> "I hope you burn in hell, you evil dyke"
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> "I just want to say I hate you all (gay people)"
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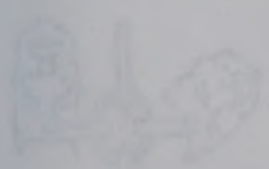
> "There are some other brothers who feel the way I do (angry) and we will wait outside for you after this (the seminar) is over."

I assure you, Dr. Keith, my comments and presentation were tactful, careful, professional; I was articulate. There was no response I made that warranted this type of violence.

I solicit your help and investigation into this matter. No guests on your campus should be made to feel unwelcome or that their safety is threatened, which I did.

499 Waldo St. S.E. • Atlanta, G.A. 30312 • 627-1104 • 703-0252 pager



I deserve a formal apology from your institution, and to insure that this type of violence and harassment is not ever experienced by anyone else because of sexual preference, myself and the African-American lesbian and gay political action group, I sit on the board of, C.A.D. (Coalition of African Descent); want to see sensitivity training for faculty, staff, and students in the area of lesbian and gay respect conducted at Morehouse College.

I trust that you will take these matters seriously.

Respectfully,

S. Faybell Ma-Hee

S. Faybell Ma-Hee
Founder/Executive Director
SILVERFINGERS PRODUCTIONS

CCS:
C.A.D.
Janice Haney
Raymon Crawford
John Bellamy

CAD

March 10, 1993

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The Coalition of African Descent, an African American Lesbian and Gay Networking Organization, representing over 25 organizations, is writing to you as President of Morehouse College, to bring to your attention a matter deep concern.

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Ms. Tonia Poteat, Ms. S. Faybell Ma-Hee, and Mr. Jafari Allen have informed to the Coalition of African Descent incidents of homophobia ie., verbal threats against their lives and profanity that was directed towards at them during their presentations on your campus. Ms. S. Fay Bell Ma-Hee had to be escorted to her car and home for" fear of the safety of her life". Ms. Poteat and Mr. Allen also expressed this same fear before, during and after their presentations. (see enclosed correspondence) Each of these incidents was perpetrated by students of Morehouse College.

You are no stranger to the types of arguments used in attempts to deny constitutional rights to anyone not born white, male and heterosexual. The fundamental issues of these tenets guaranteeing "inalienable rights", and "liberty and justice" for all, as a right of citizenship have been ignored at Morehouse. As adolescents we remember when our people were still "colored" and living separate but unequal lives. Victory then meant that all of us would be full citizens under the law, not that some would only be guaranteed personal liberties based on opinion polls rather than constitutional law.

Dr. Keith, members of the Coalition of African Descent along with the individuals who were harassed are requesting:

An African American Lesbian and Gay Networking Organization
686 McDill Place Atlanta, GA. 30312

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2) Public apology to the individuals in reference to the specific incidents.

3) An investigation into these incidents.

4) Providing sensitivity training to faculty, staff and students ie., College sanctioned workshops on (Homophobia, Diversity and Sexism)

5) Sanction the organizing of a support group for Gay students on Morehouse campus.

Dr. Keith, our ancestors fought too hard for justice in this country for it to mean **"just us"**. Too much of our potential as a collective group will be left behind. African American Lesbians and Gay men can no loner be marginalized if all people of African descent are to succeed.

Dr. Keith, the Coalition of African Descent is certain the college of our Mayor, Maynard Jackson, Fulton County Commission Chairman, Michael Lomax, Atlanta, NAACP Executive Director Earl Shinholster and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. has zero tolerance for injustice and threats of violence on its campus.

As an institution that prepares our young men to deal with the ethical and moral issues of our county and world, We're sure you too find this behavior intolerable.

We wait eagerly for a meeting to discuss this issue.

United through diversity,

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Senior Advisor to Mayor Jackson
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Maurice O'Brian Franklin
Lesbian and Gay Public Safety
Task Force for the City of
Atlanta

for the Coalition of African Descent

CAD

10 March 1993

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Owing to recent occurrences of Gay and Lesbian "bashing" at Morehouse , I feel compelled to open a dialogue that will ameliorate the heterosexist/homophobic climate on campus.

Dr. Anna Grant, Chairperson of the Department of Sociology, has made dubious remarks on a wide variety of topics. Comments referring to "Penalties" of homosexuality and "acting against nature", made during the first week of the Fall 1992 semester,however, reflect an unscholarly, uninformed and anti-intellectual paradigm that has absolutely no place in academia. Most assuredly; It has no place at Morehouse, where our mission remains building intellectually sound and socially responsible African-American men.

Upon entering Dr. Grant's classroom on the day in question, I noticed that the second half of Marlon Riggs' "Tongues Untied" was being shown. I was at once encouraged by the progressiveness of screening such a film, and more than a little concerned about the fact that neither Dr. Grant nor her Assistant was in the room to ensure proper interrogation of the subject matter. Professor Grant arrived during the last seconds of the film, and commented that she was "afraid" that the film would "encourage" and legitimize homosexuality in the Black community. She then wrote "PENALTIES" on the chalkboard and scrawled subheadings: "Abbreviated Life Span", "Abbreviated contribution to Society","Alienation from family and Community" as well as others not reflected in my classnotes. Professor Grant referred to Gay designers and entertainers who made their transitions as a result of AIDS. When I attempted to challenge her assertions, she flippantly said that these (AIDS, alienation,etc.) were penalties of "going against the natural order". Dr. Grant commented that although every one enjoys personal agency; "when we choose to act against nature- there are penalties". Clearly, the Chairwoman's remarks were grossly out of line and create a derisive and hostile environment for Gay students and students living with HIV infection. Dr. Anna Grant's heterosexism and resultant Gay bashing is offensive to the spirit of our proud African tradition of inclusion and the letter of the man for whom our International Chapel is named: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere".

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I am confident that you will take the steps mandated by the zeitgeist of "correctness" by making Dr. Grant, and the entire Morehouse College community aware that the "penalties" of Gay bashing are indeed high. I look forward to further correspondence with you apropos of this matter.

Sincerely,

J.Sinclaire Allen

982 Oglethorpe Avenue SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30310
404- 758-3099

COALITION OF AFRICAN DESCENT

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate release:

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For more information please contact the Coalition at 681-4868.

CAD

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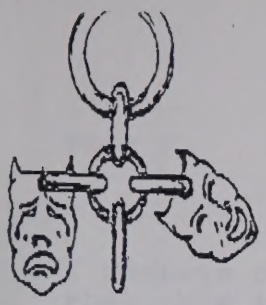

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CCS:
C.A.D.
Janice Haney
Raymon Crawford
John Bellamy

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As African Americans who are also lesbian or gay, we are often confronted with several forms of discrimination based on our race and sexual orientation. Some of us are lesbians, some of us are gay men but we are all African-American. We are often ignored by the media which ~~portrays~~ perceives* the gay community as an homogenous white male population.* and portray We not only face racism from the white community - straight and gay. We must also deal with sexism and homophobia from the community-at-large and especially from our fellow African-Americans.

There is a particularly high level of homophobia within the African-American community. Although African Americans have been victimized by centuries of oppression in this country, many of them continue to oppress and ostracize their lesbian and gay sisters and brothers. This wedge of fear and ignorance is dividing the ranks of a community already beset with the crises of crime

poverty, drug abuse and AIDS. As African Americans we of the CAD are disturbed by the lack of unity in our community. As lesbians and gay men, we will not tolerate the mistreatment of any of our kind because of their sexual orientation.

On 3 separate occasions members of the African-American lesbian and gay community were invited to Morehouse College to discuss AIDS and Homophobia in the African-American Community. These 3 representatives, Ms. Tonia Poteat, Ms. S Faybell-Mathee and Mr. Jafari Allen have informed the CAD that they were verbally harassed and threatened during their respective presentations. We are deeply troubled by the fact that such deplorable behavior was displayed by students of Morehouse College. We feel that as an institution that is responsible for educating our future leaders, Morehouse must uphold the standard of fairness and ethical treatment for all members of the African-American community.

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TRANSMISSION REPORT

:AID ATLANTA (MAR 25 '93 17:22)

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MAR 25	17:19		G3ST	03'09"	OK	03	

Fax Transmittal

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Atlanta

1438 West Peachtree St. NW
Suite 100
Atlanta, GA. 30309-2955

Phone:(404)872-0600
Fax:(404)885-6799

Date 3-25-92

Time 5:17

Fax# 577-9405

To JOAN GARNER

From CRAIG WASHINGTON

Comments

# of pages (including cover) 3

Please Report Any Fax Problems To (404) 872-0600

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Incidents

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~~We feel that~~

~~The hostility we & we~~

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This ~~is of po~~ a matter of urgent conce

~~We would like~~ ~~we~~ of the Coalition African Descent ~~feel that the African-American community cannot afford to~~ We ~~of the Coalition of~~ African Descent ~~believe~~ believe the ~~African-American community~~ cannot afford to divide its ranks ~~with a wedge of fear and ignorance~~ This wedge of fear & and ignorance continues to divide the ranks of ~~the African American community~~ ~~which~~ a community ~~that is being~~ already beset ~~pounded~~ with the crises of ~~poverty~~, crime, poverty, drug abuse, and AIDS. As African Americans, We of the Coalition of African Descent ~~will not tolerate any the mistreatment~~ ~~fact~~ are concerned about disturbed by the lack of unity within our community.

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